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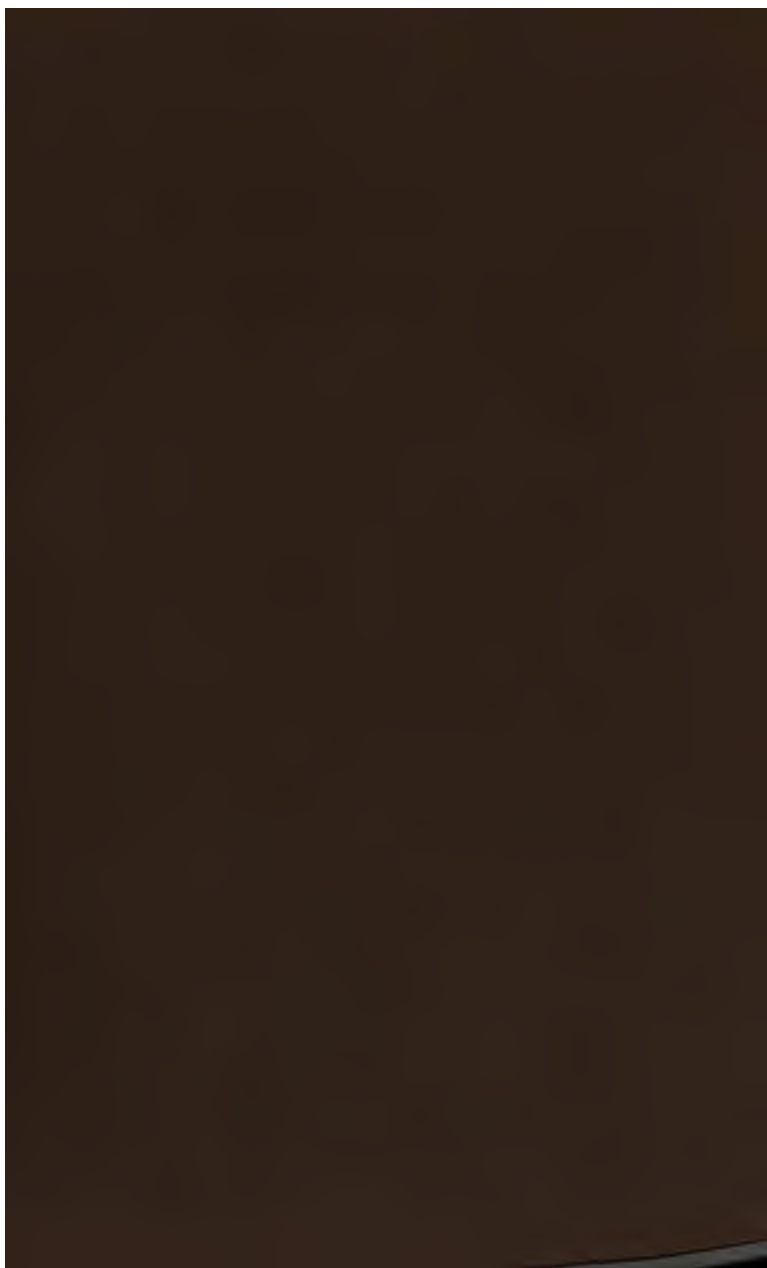
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Old English Test Books.

OLD ENGLISH JEST BOOKS.

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CONCEITS, CLINCHES, FLASHES, AND  
WHIMZIES.

NEWLY STUDIED, WITH SOME COLLECTIONS, BUT  
THOSE NEVER PUBLISHED BEFORE  
IN THIS KIND.

REPRINTED FROM THE UNIQUE ORIGINAL,

*And Edited, with Introduction and Notes,*

BY

W. CAREW HAZLITT.

LONDON:

1866.

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CONCEITS, CLINCHES, FLASHES,  
AND WHIMZIES.

*Conceits, Clinches, Flashes, and Whimzies. Newly studied, with some Collections, but those never published before in this kinde. London. Printed by R. Hodgkinsonne for Daniel Frere, and are to be sold at the signe of the red Bull in little brittain. 1639. 12°.*

Of this volume, a recent discovery in this class of literature, only one edition, and of that edition only one copy, is known. Until the book accidentally fell into the hands of Mr. Halliwell, it had never been seen by bibliographers; but in 1860, Mr. Halliwell reprinted six and twenty copies of the new literary curiosity, and thus it became to a certain extent accessible to those, who are interested in the existing remains of early English literature. The collection is remarkable in two respects, first on account of the previously unnoticed mention of Shakespeare, at p. 49, and secondly because the bulk of the anecdotes here brought together are original, which is hardly ever the case in such compilations.

Of the Author of these facetiæ nothing whatever is known; from the commendatory verses prefixed to the book he appears to have been a friend of Thomas Rawlins, the poet and dramatist; but beyond this we have no clue. From the Address to the Reader it is perhaps allowable to infer that the following pages represent a selection from the Table Talk of the Author and his friends.

It is just possible that the anonymous compiler was John Taylor, the Water Poet, who published a collection entitled: "Bull, Beare, and Horse, Cut, Curtaile, and Longtaile. With Tales of Buls, Clenches, and Flashes, as also here and there a touch of our Beare-Garden." Lond. 1638, 8°. Although there are several anecdotes reported in the follow-

ing pages which can scarcely be new to the reader, it is to be recollected that they are here found in their original shape and, in many cases, for the first time.

The edition of this work issued by Mr. Halliwell (London, 1860, 4°) is a reproduction of the old text without any improvements, and with very numerous errors. In the present edition, both the text and the pointing have been considerably amended, the original having, apparently, been very carelessly got up, and exhibiting several corruptions in the language, and a punctuation more than usually negligent and faulty. A few notes have also been added. It is necessary to state that the copy used (which is, as the reader is already aware, the only one known) is deficient of two leaves between Jests 231 and 232; but in a publication, where each paragraph is complete in itself, this *hiatus* is of far less importance than in the case of a connected or continuous narrative.



*TO THE READER.*

GENTLE Reader, I here present thee with the productions of some vapping houres, purposely intended to promote harmlesse mirth ; I wish thee as merry in the reading as I and some other of my friends were in speaking of them ; do but laugh at them, and I am satisfied, for to that (and no other purpose) they were intended.

**Farewell.**

To the Author on his Conceits.

FRIEND, *thy conceits, flown from the downey nes  
Of thy rich fancy, lighted on my brest;  
Where (let me tell thee true, for 'twere a sin  
To flatter any, much more flatter him  
I hold my friend) I found such ample store  
In thy pure mine of gold and silver ore,  
I became conscious that I sure was bound  
Now to disclose to th' world what I had found,  
And render to the readers; no close end  
Could stop me from being theirs or thy true friend.*

T. RAWLINS.

Conceits, Clinches, Flashes and  
Whimzies.

1.

**A**N idle justice of Peace is like the picture of Saint George upon a signe-post with his sword drawne to no purpose.

2.

Hee that speakes great gunpowder words may be compared to a deepemouth'd Dogge, or bee sayd to have a tympany in his tongue.

3.

A Souldier said hee had been in so many battels and had been so battered with bullets, that hee swore hee thought hee had a mine of lead in his belly.

4.

Lovers oathes are like marryners prayers ; when once the heate is over, they are not the same men.

5.

Women are like dead bodies for surgeons to worke upon, because they tell a man his imperfections.

6.

Musitians may be compared unto Camelions, because they live by ayre.

7.

One said it was a difficult thing to perswade a multitude (especially in a City where they are for the most part strongheaded) to any reason.

8.

One was called foole for asking what Country man a ploughman was ; because it is knowne, said one, they were all borne in Hungarie.

9.

One asked a man whether he had swallowed a Doctor of Phisickes bill, because hee spoke such hard words.

10.

The philosopher's stone had need turne all mettals to gold, because the study of it turnes all a mans gold to other mettall.

11.

One asked a poet where his wits were? He answered a wool-gathering. The other replied, there was no people had more need of it.

12.

One asked whence choller was discended? One answered that shee was the daughter of a great mans porter, begot of a kitchin wench in the time of a feast.

13.

One asked another why hee loved woodcoke so extreemly? The other answered, why not I as well as you? for I am sure you never go abroad but you carry one under your cloake.

14.

One asked why a Knight tooke place of a Gentleman. It was answered, because they were Knights now a days before they were Gentlemen.<sup>1</sup>

15.

One said the midwives trade of all trades was most commendable; because they lived, not by the hurts of other men, as Surgeons do, nor by

(1) This jest is a sneer at the profuseness which James the First and his successor exhibited in the creation of knights, as a means of raising money.

the falling out of friends, as Lawyers do ; but by the agreement betwixt party and party.

16.

One said a good Client was like a study gown, that sits in the colde himselfe to keepe his Lawyer warme.

17.

One said the fees of a pander and a punie clarke are much alike ; for the pander had but two pence next morning for making the bed, and that was a penny a sheet.

18.

A woman was commending a boyes face. Pish, quoth another, give me a man's face ; a boyes face is not worth a haire.

19.

One compar'd a domineering fellow to a walking Spurre, that keeps a great jingling noise, but never pricks.

20.

One said it was unfit a glasier should be a Constable, because he was a common quarreller.<sup>1</sup>

(1) A *quarel* was the old term for a pane of glass, and *quareler* was synonymous with *glazier*.

21.

One said he had received a shee-letter, because, saith he, it hath a young one in the belly of it.

22.

One asked the reason why Lawyer's Clearks writ such wide lines. Another answered, it was done to keepe the peace, for if the Plaintiffe should be in one line and the Defendant in the next line, the lines being too neare together, they might perhaps fall together by the eares.

23.

One sayd hee was so tender hearted, that he could not find in his heart to kill a louse ; another answered that it proceeded only from faintheartednesse, because hee had not the heart to see his own blood.

24.

One said a rich widdow was like the rubbish of the world, that helps only to stop the breaches of decayed houses.

25.

A master spoke in a strainte his servant understood not, whereupon the servant desired his

Master rather to give him blowes then such hard words.

26.

Those that say gallants put all upon their backs abuse them ; for they spend a great deale more upon their bellies.

27.

One said it was a strange fashion that we had in England to receive money with wives, and give money for wenches. It was answered that in ancient time women were good, and then men gave money for their wives ; but now, like light gold, they would not passe without allowance.

28.

One perswaded another to marry a w\*\*\*\* because shee was rich, telling him that, perhaps, she might turne. Turne, said the other, she hath been so much worne that she is past turning.

29.

One put a jest upon his frend. O, said his friend, that I could but see your braines, I would even hug them for this jest.

30.

One asked why Sextons did use to weare black. It was answered that in regard of their office they were to meddle with grave matters, and did therefore weare black.

31.

One, seeing another weare a thred-bare cloake, asked him whether his cloak was not sleepy or no? Why do you aske? said the other. Because, said hee, I thinke it hath not had a nap this seven yeeres.

32.

One asked what was the usuall food of citizens wives. It was answered, though they loved flesh beter then fish, yet for temperance sake they would so dyet themselves that at noon they fed only upon carp, at night on cods head, and when they went abroad, a little place would content them better then any other thing.

33.

One wondred much what great Scholler this same Finis was, because his name was almost to every booke.<sup>1</sup>

(1) This is the earliest witticism of the kind which I remember to have seen. In a broadside, entitled "The Parliaments Knell," and printed

## 34.

One asked what he was that had a fine wit in Jest. It was answered, a foole in earnest.

## 35.

One hearing a Usurer say he had been on the pike of Teneriff (which is supposed to be one of the highest hills in the world), asked him why he had not stayd there, for he was perswaded hee would never come so neere heaven againe.<sup>1</sup>

## 36.

A Citizen begins a health to all the Cuckolds in the world ; the Gentleman, to whom the health was presented seeing him with his cap in his hand, said, what doe you mean, Sir ? pray ye, remember your selfe.

## 37.

One asked a foot-boy why he was so affected with linnen stockings ? He answered, because he was troubled with running legges.

about 1647, the author is described as *Mr. Finis*. The disputed question as to whether Shakespeare's plays were written by *Mr. Preface* or *Mr. Finis* is well known. .

(1) This story, in a variety of forms, is in many of the jest-books.

38.

One sayd to another that his face was like a popish almanack, all holydayes, because it was full of pimples.

39.

One sayd it was a good fashion that was worn now a dayes, because the Taylers had so contrived it that there was little or no waste in a whole suit.

40.

One said a jellous wife was like an irish trouze, alwayes close to a mans taylor.

41.

One said an Apothecaries house must needs be healthfull, because the windowes, benches, boxes, and almost all the things in the house, tooke phisick.

42.

One said a Physitian was naturall brother to the wormes, because he was ingendered out of mans corruption.

43.

One gave a fellow a box on the eare, the fellow gave him another. What doe you meane? (sayd

he that gave the first box) I did not lend you a box, I freely gave it you. The other answered, he was a gamester, and had been alwayes us'd to pay the box.

## 44.

A Gentleman that bore a spleene to another meets him in the street, gives him a box on the eare ; the other, not willing to stricke againe, puts it off with a jest, asking him whether it was in jest or in earnest ? The other answers it was in earnest. I am glad of that, said he, for if it had been in jest, I should have been very angry, for I do not like such jesting ; and so past away from him.

## 45.

One that was justly jealous of his wife said, prethee, leave these courses, for if thou dost not, they will, ere it be long, make me horne mad.

## 46.

One sayd to a gentleman that was too full of complement : pray you, Sir, do not spend so much wit ; if you be so prodigall of it, you will, ere it be long, have none left for your selfe.

47.

There is nothing, sayes one, more revengfull then hemp : for if a man once beat it, especially in Bridewell, 'tis a hundred to one but it will be the death of him shortly after.

48.

Hee that sweares when he loseth his mony at gaming, may challeng hel by way of purchase.

49.

One asked which were supposed to be the two fruitfullest acres of ground in the whole Kingdome. It was answered, Westminster Hall and the old Exchange.

50.

It was asked why fat men did love their ease so much. Because, sayd one, the soule in a fat body lyes soft, and is therefore loath to rise.

51.

One asked why yong Barristers used to stick their chamber windowes with letters. Because, said another, it was the first thing that gave the world notice of their worships.

52.

One having dranke a cup of dead beere, swore that the beer was more then foxed ; another, demanding his reason : quoth he, because it is dead drunke.

53.

Usurers live, sayes one, by the fall of heires, like swine by the dropping of acorns.

54.

One sayd a prodigall was like a brush that spent it self to make others goe handsome in their cloathes.

55.

One wondred what pleasant kind of oratory the Pillory had in him, that men lov'd to have their eares nail'd to it.

56.

One said : suppose all the women in the world were like patient Grizell ; then, sayd another, we might make Christmas bloks of the cucking-stooles.

57.

An Antiquary, says one, loves every thing (as Dutchmen doe cheese) for being mouldy and worm-eaten.

58.

One said a Player had an idle imployment of it. O, you are mistaken, sayd another, for his whole life is nothing else but action.

59.

One asked his friend how he should use tobacco so that it might do him good ? He answered : you must keepe a tobacco shop and sell it, for certainly there is none else find good in it.

60.

A simple fellow in gay cloths, sayes one, is like a Cinnamom tree ; the barke is of more worth then the body.

61.

If a man be Cornelius, sayes one, he must be Tacitus too, otherwise he shall never live quietly.

62.

One entreated a prisoner to do him a curtesie, telling him that hitherto he had found him a fast friend, and he hoped hee should find him so still.

63.

A gentleman riding on the way would needs turne back to kisse his wife that was behinde him ;

he was therefore commended for a kind husband,  
in regard he was before, to kisse his wife behinde.

64.

One asked whether such a man were wise or no?  
It was answered that he was otherwise.

65.

One perswaded a Scholer that was much given  
to going abroad that he would put away his cushion,  
and it would be a meanes to make him sit harder  
to his study.

66.

One said poetry and plain dealing were a couple  
of hansom wenches. Another answered : yes, but  
he that weds himselfe to either of them shall dye  
a begger.

67.

One sayd he had heard the story of St. George  
how he kild the Draggon that would else have de-  
voured the maide, and did wonder that men would  
devise such lies;<sup>1</sup> for, saith he, it is held by most

(1) This is a rather lame and wire-drawn version of a story which may be found in Aubrey's *Remains of Gentilism and Judaism*, (Thoms' *Anecdotes and Traditions*, p. 101). Aubrey has preserved the following verses :—

“To save a mayd, St. George the Dragon slew,  
A pretty tale, if all is told, be true :  
Most say there are no dragons, and 'tis sayd,  
There was no George : pray God there was a mayd !!”

men that there was never such a man as St. George, nor ever such a creature as a Dragon. Another answers for St. George: tis no great matter neither for the Draggon, whether there were such or no; pray heaven there be a maide, and then it is no matter.

## 68.

A Scholar and a Courtier meeting in the street seemd to contest for the wall; sayes the Courtier: I do not use to give every coxcombe the wall. The Schollar answered: but I do, sir; and so passed by him.

## 69.

One asked the reason why women were so crooked and perverse in their conditions. Another answered: because the first woman was made of a crooked thing.

## 70.

A rich Lawyer, that had got a great estate by the Law, upon his death bed was desirous to give twenty pound per annum to the house of Bedlam. Being demanded why he would give it to that house rather then another, he answered that he had got it of mad men, and to them he would give it againe.

## 71.

One said women were like quick sands, seemed firme ; but if a man came upon them, he fell in over head and shoulders.

## 72.

Another said a woman was like a peece of old Grogram, alwayes fretting.

## 73.

One asked why men should thinke there was a world in the Moone. It was answered, because they were lunatique.<sup>1</sup>

## 74.

One asked why Ladyes called their husbands Master such a one, and master such a one, and not by their titles of knighthood, as Sir Thomas, Sir Richard, Sir William, etc. It was answered that, though others called them by their right titles, as Sir William, Sir Thomas, etc., yet it was fit their wives should master them.

(1) Bishop Wilkins' work, entitled, "A Discovery of a New World," had just (1638) appeared, and had no doubt given rise to a good deal of discussion on this old and whimsical question.

75.

One asked, what was the first commodity a yong shopkeeper put off. It was answered, his honestie.

76.

One asked why Icarus would undertake to flye in the ayre. It was answered, because he was a Buzzard.

77.

Two Gentlemen talking in latin in the presence of a woman, she grew jealous that they spake of her, and desired them to speake english that she might answer them, for she said she was perswaded when men spake latin, although they spake but two words, that still one of them was nought: whereupon one of the Gentlemen sayd presently, *Bona mulier*. She replied: I know *bona* is good, but Ile warrant ye the other word meanes something that's nought.

78.

A simple fellow, being too bold with one that was his superior, was told he might say what he would for that day, because it was Innocents day, it being so indeed.

## 79.

One said a barber had need be honest and trusty, because whosoever employed him, though it was but for a haire matter, put his life into his hands.

## 80.

A suit in Law being referd to a Gentleman, the plantiffe, who had the equity of the cause on his side, presented him with a new coach ; the Defendant, with a couple of horses : he, liking the horses better then the coach, gave sentence on the Defendants side. The Plaintiffe calls to him, and asketh him how it came to passe the coach went out of the right way. He answers that he could not help it, for the horses had drawne it so.<sup>1</sup>

## 81.

One perswaded his friend to marry a little woman, because of evils the least was to be chosen.

## 82.

One asked how it came to passe that hosts had usually red noses. It was answered, that it was

(1) This is a very favourite jest, and is found in several of the early collections.

given to them by nature to show to the world an experiment of the vertue of what [t]he[y] sold.

## 83.

A vaine glorious man was bragging that his Father and his Uncle had founded such a Hospitall. One answered, 'tis true, but yet know that your Father and your Uncle were the meere confounders of that Hospitall you speake of.

## 84.

One said a tooth drawer was a kind of an unconscionable trade, because his trade was nothing else but to take away those things whereby every man gets his living.

## 85.

One asked why he that drew beere was not called a drawer as well as he that drew wine? It was answered, that beere made a man to p\*\*\*\*, but it was wine made him draw.

## 86.

One said he wondred that lether was not dearer then any other thing. Being demanded a reason : because, saith he, it is more stood upon then other thing in the world.

## 87.

One said a hangman had a contemplative profession, because he never was at work but he was put in mind of his owne end.

## 88.

One called another rogue. He answered : durst I trust thee with a looking glasse, you would quit me, and condemne yourselfe.

## 89.

A fellow, that had no money in his pocket, was in a great rage with another, who told him : pray, sir, do not put yourselfe into too much heat, unlesse you had more money in your pocket whereby to quench it.

## 90.

One being asked what countryman he was, he answered, a Middlesex man. The other told him [it] being he was neither of the male sex nor of the female sex, but of a middleséx, he must then be a Hermaphrodit.

## 91.

One sayd corne was a quarrelsome creature, because it rose by the blade, and fel by the eares with those that cut it.

92.

Why do Ladies so affect slender wastes? (said one.) 'Tis (replied another) because their expences may not bee too great.

93.

One commending a Tayler for his dexteritie in his profession, another standing by ratified his opinion, saying tailors had their businesse at their fingers ends.

94.

One, being demanded the reason why he thought the greatest drinkers quickest of apprehension, made this answer: *Qui super naculum bibit ad unguem sapit.*

95.

A Poet, sayes one, is a man of great priviledge, because, if he transgresse, it is by a rule, viz., *Licentia poetica.*

96.

The severest stoicks (said one) are the greatest Students, because their contracted browes are alwayes bent to study.

97.

Colliers and mine-workers should be well acquainted with all the philosophical secrets of the Earth, because they have deeper knowledge in it than any others.

98.

Tapsters, said one, should be men of esteem, because they are men not only of a high calling, but also of great reckoning.

99.

Tis impossible that Saylers should be rich men, because they are never so well pleased as when they go downe the wind fastest.

100.

A woman said of all men she had a desire to marry a Huntsman, because he would not disdain to weare the horne.

101.

Of all knaves there's the greatest hope of a Cobler, for though he be never so idle a fellow, yet he is still mending.

102.

A Smith, said one, is the most pragmaticall fellow under the Sun, for he hath alwayes many irons in the fire.

103.

The neatest man in a Kingdome (sayd one) is a Barber, for he cannot endure to have a hair amisse.

104.

Wit bought is better then wit taught, because he that never bought any is but a naturall wit.

105.

Tis probable that those women that paint most shall live longest ; for where the house is kept in repaire, there is no feare but it will be inhabited.

106.

One said that tall men of all others were most happy, because they were neerer heaven then all other men.

107.

A squint-ey'd man (says one) is the most circum-spect of all men, because he can look nine ways at once.<sup>1</sup>

(1) The sailors still say of a squint-eyed person, that "he looks nine ways for Sundays."

108.

One said that tal men should be great polititians, because they have an extraordinary reach.

109.

One sayd hang-men were very happy, because those men they do most hurt will never be able to render them *quid pro quo*.

110.

It is in some sort necessary that some rich men should be Dunces, because the pretenders to learning may get preferment : for the good wits will be able to help themselves.

111.

One was saying it was a fine quality to be able to speak wel ex tempore. Why then, said another, we may commend every woman : for they have the most nimble, fluent tongues, and that without study or consideration.

112.

Hang-men practice their cunning for the most part on good natur'd men, because they are ready to forgive, before the hurt be attempted.

113.

Hee that hath but one eye is more like to hit the marke he aymes at then another, because he hath a monstrous sight.

114.

Glasiers, said one, must needes be good arbitratōrs, for they spend their whole time in nothing but composing of quarels.<sup>1</sup>

115.

Carpenters, said one, are the civelest men in a Common-wealth, for they never do their buisnesse without a Rule.

116.

Of all wofull friends a hangman is the most trusty: for, if he once have to do with a man, he will see him hang'd before hee shall want mony or any thing else.

117.

Bricklayers are noteable wanton fellowes, for they have alwayes to do with one trull<sup>2</sup> or other.

(1) It has been already explained, that a 'square or pane of glass is sometimes called a *quarrel*.

(2) This jest depends on the similarity of sound between *trull* and *trouel*. The two words were very probably pronounced by our ancestors very much alike.

## 118.

Stationers could not live, if men did not beleeve the old saying, that Wit bought is better then Wit taught.

## 119.

Those that carry about with them counterfeit coyne are more nice and curious of it, then of good Gold or Silver: for they cannot endure to have that toucht of all the rest.

## 120.

Gunners are more serious in what they doe then other men: for what they doe they doe with a powder.

## 121.

Muscattiers of all other Souldiers are the most lazie: for they are alwayes at their rest.<sup>1</sup>

## 122.

One, among a company of his companions, who had been drinking very much, by chance let a \*\*\*\*, who, for conceit sake, said to one of his companions with whom he might make bold: pree-thee

(1) The rest for the musket is here referred to.

pledge me ; he answered, I cannot ; he then reply'd : I pray do but kisse the cup.

## 123.

One passing through Cheap side, a poore Woman desired his charity ; he, disregarding the woman, kept on walking, and by and by let a \*\*\*\*. The woman, hearing it, said, much good may it do your worship ; he, hearing her say so, turnes backe and gives her a tester ; she thank't him, and told his worship it was a bad wind, that did blow nobody good.

## 124.

A man walking the street let a great \*\*\*\*, upon which he jestingly said : cracke me that nut. It being heard of a waggish wench that was in a chamber over his head, who being well provided at that time with a perfum'd chamber-pot, throws it out of the window upon his head, saying, there's the kernill of your nut, Sir.

## 125.

One said a Miller was the fittest husband for a Scold, because when the mil goes, if her tongue goes ne're so fast, it cannot be heard.

126.

One said that Duke Humfrey's guests were the most temperate men in the world, it being known that at his Table there was never any made drunke, nor with his dyet dyed of a surfet.<sup>1</sup>

127.

One said Physitians had the best of it ; for, if they did well, the world did proclaime it ; if ill, the earth did cover it.

128.

It is a necessary and fit thing that women learn Roman-hand, because (saith one) they were never good Secretaries, nor ever will be.

129.

One saw a man and his wife fighting ; the people asked him, why he did not part them. He answered that he had been better bred then to part man and wife.

130.

One said that Tobacconists would endure the wars well, for they would never be stifled with fire and smoake.

(1) This anecdote turns, of course, on the familiar phrase "to dine with Duke Humphrey."

131.

A drawer for one thing or other is alwayes appearing at the barre but is not punisht, yet notwithstanding 'tis all scor'd up.

132.

Scriveners are most hard harted fellowes, for they never rejoyce more then when they put other men in bonds.

133.

Smiths of all handy-crafts men are the most irregular, for they never thinke themselves better employed, then when they are addicted to their vices.

134.

Those which weare long haire are in the readiest way to make good Fryars, for they may promise to themselves the happinesse to enjoy bald crownes without the help of a Barber.

135.

Tapsters are not only very rash but very expert, for they are apt to draw upon all occasions, and yet suffer very few to go away scot-free.

136.

Of al diseases the three-quarters harme<sup>1</sup> is most dangerous and most desired : for all women desire to multiply, though they labor ne'er so hard for 't.

137.

Fidlers are very unfortunate in their calling, for they never do anything but it is against the haire.<sup>2</sup>

138.

Trumpeters are much subject to sickly distempers ; for commonly, when they are most in health, they will fall a sounding.<sup>3</sup>

139.

One being asked, where he thought al woodcocks remaind in the Summer-time when they are not seene with us, it was answered, in new England.

140.

Horse-keepers and ostlers (let the world go which way it will, though there be never so much alteration in times and persons) are still stable men.

(1) *i.e.* the period of parturition.

(2) *i.e.* the fiddlestring.

(3) A play on the words *swooning* or *swoning* and *sounding* must be here understood by the charitable reader. Formerly, perhaps, the *w* in *swound* was sometimes dropped in familiar conversation.

141.

One said it was no great matter what a drunkard said in his drinke, for he seldome spake any thing that he could stand to.

142.

A hypocrite is odious (saies one) to God, to Man, and to the Devill. God hates him, because he is not what he seemes, Man hates him, because he seemes what he is not, and the Devill hates him, because he seems not what he is truly and indeed.

143.

One said of all professions, that Stage-players were the most philosophicall men that were, because they were as merry and as well contented, when they were in rags as when they were in robes.

144.

Great Eaters are the most valiant men, for they never fight but with a good stomacke.

145.

One asked what the reason was that few women lov'd to eat egges. It was answered, because they cannot endure to beare the yoke.

146.

One, drinking of a cup of burnt claret, said he was not able to let it down. Another demanded why. He answered, because it was red hot.

147.

A poor man that lived in the Suburbs of London being owner of a little field, had got together so much mony to buy two little fields more of an acre of ground apeece, yet he was said to be rich, because he had purchased More fields.

148.

One said roaring Gallants were like Pedlers, because some of them did carry their whole estates upon their backs.

149.

One said that some Taylors were like Woodcocks, because they lived by their long bills.

150.

An Oculist is excellent at sleight of hand : for, if he undertake to cure a blind man, he will so do it that the patient shall see he does it.

151.

One said it was dangerous to wrong a Phisitian, because, if he once have to do with a man, he will be sure to make him stinke.

152.

An Inkeeper brag'd he had a bed so large that two hundred Constables had lyen in it at one time, meaning two Constables of hundreds.

153.

He that byes a horse in Smith field, and does not looke upon him, before he buye him, with a paire of spectacles, makes his horse and himself a paire of sorrofull spectacles, for others to looke on.

154.

A prison is a good instrument of reformation, for it makes many rogues and lewd fellowes staid men.

155.

One complaining that his Sonne was a very prodigall, and that he would give an hundred pounds to have him reclaimed, his neighbor, that heard him complaine, answer'd: let him be a French-Tayler, for they make no waste.

156.

A wax-chandlers shop being rob'd, one of his friends came to comfort him, and told him he should not be troubled at it, for he durst undertake his goods would come to light.

157.

One demanded of a wild yong Gentleman the reason why he would sel his land. Who answered, because he hoped to go to heaven, which he could not possibly do, til he forsook earth.

158.

In the Common-wealth of Fishes are many officers ; Herring the King, Swordfish his guard ; Lobsters are Aldermen, Crabs are Constables, and poor Johns the common sort of people.

159.

An idle unthrift, having nothing left to maintaine his humor of good fellowship but his bed, sold it, for which being reproved by some friends, he answered that he could never be well, so long as he kept his bed.

160.

Coblers may be said to be good men, because

they set men upright, and are ever employed in mending of soles.

161.

Two men seeing a handsome Wench, but thought to be light, pass by in a very poore habit, the one said : it was a wonder to see such a wench so bare ; the other replied, it was no wonder, for she was common.

162.

A drunken fellow, returning home towards evening, found his wife hard at her spinning ; she reprooving him for his ill husbandry, and commending herself for her good huswifery, he told her that she had no great cause to chide : for, as she had been spinning, he came home all the way reeling.

163.

An ignorant drunken Surgeon that kil'd all men that came under his hands, boasted himselfe a better man then the Parson ; for, said he, your Cure maintains but yourselfe, but my Cures maintaine all the Sextons in the Towne.

164.

A merry fellow said the Ale-house was the only

place to thrive in, for he had knowne many a score made there.

165.

Musitians may be said to be the best Philosophers, for they will be sure to keepe time.

166.

A woman, that was very imperious over her husband, was nick-nam'd by a neighbor and cal'd Mistres Cap, for which she angerlie demanded his reason, and was answered, because she was alwayes above her head.

167.

The same woman with her riotous humors having undone her husband, and he being broken and fled, the same neighbor reproving her, she bade him not medle with what did no way belong to him, for she had only broken her owne head.

168.

A Lady that was painted, tould a Gentleman she desired much to have her picture done to the life ; to which he answered : you need not that, Madam, for you are a picture to the life already.

169.

A Gentleman whose name was Stone, falling off his horse into a deep water, out of which he got not without some danger, his companion laugh'd at the mischance, and being reprov'd, answered that no man but would laugh to see a stone swim.

170.

A foolish Gentleman, deformed likewise in his person, was called by one a monster. Nay, surely, said another, the Gentleman is meerly naturall.

171.

A country fellow asking which way he might go to Bedlam, a Citizen tould him the nearest way was to be mad. Then, said the Country fellow, you horn-mad Citizens may the better direct us that are Country-men.

172.

A common wench stepping into a boate fell into the water, and reaching her hand to be helped out, one refus'd it, saying she need not fear drowning, for she was so light, she could never sinke.

173.

One threatned a fellow to breake his head with

a stone. I'll assure you (quoth he) it is a hard matter to breake my head with a stone.

## 174.

A boy seemed much delighted with a Coblers worke, commending and admiring his workmanship. The Cobler, pleased with the boyes admiration, asked him if he would be of his trade. To which he answered no ; for though he loved workmanship he could not endure cobbling.

## 175.

One hearing a rich Gentleman (but ignorant enough) discourse somewhat weakly how much land there was holden in capite, asked him if his wit was held in capite, to which he answered no. The other asked him again, if he had not some fe-simple held in capite, to which he answered yes ; and that it did descend to him and his heires for ever.

## 176.

A Physitian demanded money of another for one of his patients that was dead long before. He was answered that it was a worke of charity to

visit the sick ; but if he was so earnest for mony, the only way was for him to visit the dead, and then he would never want money more.

177.

A rich Stationer wisht himselfe a Scholler ; to whom one answered, you are one already, being *doctus in libris*. Nay, said the Stationer, I am but *dives in libris*, meaning rich in pounds.

178.

One boasted himselfe to be esteemd a wit, saying the world spoke him to be all wit. One, standing by, that knew him very well, said, is't possible that you are taken to be a wit or one that is all-wit ; if you be all wit, then your anagram is wit-all.

179.

A Gentleman hawk'd in anothers ground, to which the surly owner shewed himselfe angry, at which the Gentleman spet in his face. What is your reason for that ? said the farmer. I cry you mercy, said the Gentleman, I gave you warning, for I hawk'd before I spet.

180.

One running hastily with a stick of fire in his hand to light a fagot, another called him rogue, which being angry and demanding his reason, he answered, for that he had a brand in his hand.

181.

A patient man, being domineer'd over by his wife that was flying about his eares, desired her not to teare his band, for he would gladly weare it (if she pleased) without cuffs.

182.

One was saying that lead was the basest of all other mettals. It is true, said another, but yet it is the stoutest, for the glasier will tell you that it keepes more quarrels asunder then any other mettall in the world.

183.

A Joyner on a time tooke a pill, and it so wrought with him, that he had fourty stooles in a minute of an houre.

184.

Carriers, said one, are wise men, for they will

not meddle with any thing, but they will know of what moment and waight it is.

185.

One whose name was Gun called a woman wh\*\*\*. She, being moved at it, had him before a justice of peace about it. The justice reprov'd him for it, and deeply charged him not to call her so againe. As they were going home, the woman told him : Master Gun, you heard what the justice said ; I hope, being so deeply charg'd, you will hence-forward give a better report.

186.

One said Painters were cunning fellows, for they had a colour for every thing they did.

187.

One asked why kitchin-maids went so sluttishly, in regard they drest themselves as cleanly as they did their meat.

188.

One was holding a stiffe argument with a Grocer concerning matters of trade. The Grocers wife bid him leave contesting with her husband, for her

husband was able to shew him a thousand reasons<sup>1</sup> for one.

189.

One said to his friend that had been speaking : I love to heare a man talke nonsense ; the other answered, I know you love to heare youre selfe talke as well as any man.

190.

One asked why begars stood in the streets begging with broomes in their hands. It was answered, because they did with them sweep away the durt out of peoples sight, which while they had a mind on they would never part with a penny.

191.

A Gentleman tooke up some commodities upon trust in a shop, promising the master of the shop that he would owe him so much money. The master of the shop was therewith very well contented ; but seeing that the Gentleman delayed the paiment, he asked the money. The gentleman told him he had not promised to pay him, he had promised to owe him so much money, and that he would in no wise breake his promise, which if he paid him he did.

(1) We have here, perhaps, a clue to the old pronunciation of *raisin*.

192.

One said he had been kept still to the schoole, and had been made a scholler, if he could but have learned to have declined *mulier*, and for that cause was taken from the schoole.

193.

One desired upon his deathbed to have his corps when he was dead stuck with Isop,<sup>1</sup> as is the fashion in divers places. One of his neighbors sitting by told him Time was better. Why? said the sick man. Because, said the other, unlesse you be buried in time you will stinke, that no creature will be able to go with you to the grave.

194.

One asked another what Shakespeares works were worth, all being bound together. He answered, not a farthing. Not worth a farthing! said he; why so? He answered that his plays were worth a great deale of mony, but he never heard, that his works were worth any thing at all.

195.

One was commending of the point-makers for

(1) Hyssop.

good distinct readers, and that they read better then any other people whatsoever. Another asked his reason. He answered, that since the fashion of Cassocks came up, they kept their points, and that was the only way to make a mans reading graceful.

196.

Two Poets being merry in a taverne, the one was desirous to be gone, the other entreated him to stay, telling him that, if he did goe away, he would make a comedie upon him. You shall get nothing by that, reply'd the other, for then I will make a tragedy on thee, and in the latter end of it thou shalt hang thy selfe.

197.

One, meeting his friend riding on the way without boots, asked him about what busines he rid. The other told him that his businesse was of great importance, and he was likewise in great haste. I am very doubtfull then, said he, that your labor is lost. Why? said he. Because, quoth the other, you ride of a bootlesse errand.

198.

One, being at supper at a friends house, [where] it chanced there was mutton and capers for supper,

fell into a discourse of dancing, saying, that he loved it better then any other kind of recreation ; by and by, taking notice of the capers which he had never seen before, [he] tooke one upon his trencher, cut it in the midle, and put the halfe of it into his mouth. The master of the house, observing it, said : Sir, it seemes you love dancing very well, when you cannot forbear but you must cut capers at supper.

## 199.

A fellow had the pictures of the five senses stolne out of his house, whereupon he came to a justice, and desired that the theeves might be bound to the peace. For what ? said the justice : for stealing your pictures ? Yes, saith he. I thought, said the justice, you had lost your senses, that you talke so idly.

## 200.

One amongst a crowd of people on the top of Pauls steeple had his pocket pickt. What villaines are these, quoth he, to pick a mans pocket in the Church ! Nay, Sir, said another, you are but rob'd upon the high-way.

201.

One asked another what gender Hermaphroditus was of. He answered, of the neuter.

202.

One complain'd he knew not how to maintaine his barns. Be a good husband, quoth another, and your barns will maintaine you.<sup>1</sup>

203.

A rude deboist<sup>2</sup> young man was plac'd by his friends with a Proctor who, observing the misbehaviour of the yong man, told his parents, he feared their Sonne would never make a civil Lawyer.

204.

In some merry company one bid another mend his jests, for they were all crackt. They ought to be so, said he, for it is no jest, till it be broken.

205.

One, sitting by the fire to take tobacco, said the fire was his friend, and presently spet into it: to which one replied: you doe not well to quench your friends love by spetting in his face.

(1) This story turns on the double meaning of the two words *husband* and *barn* (*bairn*).

(2) Debauched.

206.

A sawcy fellow abusing a Gentleman whose name was Fisher, the Gentleman strooke him ; for which being reproved and threatned with an action : is it not lawfull, said he, for a fisher to strike a jack ?

207.

Two schollers walking along a River were stiffely arguing a point, and wish'd for a moderator or a booke of some authority. One of them, presently espying an angler sitting on a tree, cryed out : we have our wish ! for yonder is *piscator* upon *ramus*.

208.

Two Gentlemen comming into a taverne, one of them called for a quart of claret. Why doe you love claret ? said the other ; for my part, I'll see it burnt, before I'll drinke a drop of it.

209.

A Gentleman [was] shewing a yong student a part of *Scotus* in this sentence in an old caracter wherein was printed Dominus Scotus in Sententia, and asked him, if he was not Duncce Scotus. No, replied the scholler, that can not<sup>1</sup> be except V<sup>2</sup> be there.

(1) Old ed. has *on not*.

(2) *i.e.* *u* (you).

210.

One said Gallants had reason to be good Schollers, because they were deep in many books.

211.

One, seeing a printed booke that was but one sheet of paper, said it was not necessary for any man to libell it, for it did penance in a sheet already.

212.

One asked which of the letters in the Alphabet were the most authentique in a Bill or Bond. It was answered, I O V.

213.

One asked why men and their wives did not agree better now adayes. It was answered, men were now more learned, and did know that it was false concord that the masculine and femenine gender should agree at all.

214.

A Scholler, that had his study hung round with browne paper, was us'd (when any came in to visit him in his study) to say, he did love sometimes to sit in a browne study.

215.

Two being in a tavern, the one swore the other should pledge him. Why then, quoth the other, I will; who went presently downe the staires, and left him as a pledge for the reckoning.

216.

One asked, wherefore a drum was in the wars. It was answered, to stirre up valour in the souldiers. That is strange, said the other, for, wheresoever the victory falls, the drums are sure to be beaten.

217.

One asked why B stood before C. Because, said another, a man must B before he can C.

218.

One asked how long the longest letter in the english Alphabet was. It was answered, an L long.

219.

One asked why some gentlewomen wore feathers in their hats. It was answered, because they were light-headed.

220.

Two (conspired together) whereof one was a

Goldsmith, to steale a silver bole, intending to share the businesse betwixt them, which when they had stolen, he that was the goldsmith, because it should not be known, did gild it over. It was sentenced, when the matter came to scanning, though the other stole it, yet the guilt of the fact lay upon the gold-smith.

## 221.

One comming by a Sexton (who was making a grave for one Button which was a great tal fellow), asked him for whom that extraordinary long grave was. He answered, he had made many longer then that, and said it was but a button hole in respect of some graves that he had made.

## 222.

One said a barber was an active man, for, if he did once take out his combe, he would box a man about the eares, and the man scarce feele it.

## 223.

One said a cooke of all men had the worst digestion, for, as soone as he had eaten his meat, he would be sure to spit his meat up againe.

## 224.

A great tall fellow, whose name was Way, lay

along the street drunke. One went over him, and being asked why he did so, he answered he did but goe along the high-way.

225.

A Gentleman (that was us'd to send his letters by a footpost that was an old flegmatick rotten fellow) complained that he suffred much prejudice because his letters came too late to his friends hands ; another standing by told him it was his owne fault, because he did send them by a rotten post.

226.

One whose name was You married a woman whose name was You also ; he for this cause was, and ever will be, cal'd Master W.

227.

One who had been somewhat bitter to his wife complayned to his neighbour (who was a northern man borne, and spake accordingly), telling him that she was such a peevish woman that he could not endure to live with her : who advised him not to be so harsh to her, but to goe to her and so-lace her, and then she would be more kind to him.

228.

One was saying he wondred why the people in Æthiopia did not write straight along as we northern people ; one answered, they writ under the line, and that was the reason of it.

229.

A Dyer, who was an idle drunken fellow, was complainyng to a Scholler that he had very ill fortune in his businesse, and that commonly those things that he undertook to dye were spoiled. The Scholler told him that the only way to have this amended was to reform himselfe, for he that lived ill could never dye well.

230.

One, whose name was Church, was telling some of his neighbors that his wife was with child, and that he never in his life saw any woman so big before : besides, [he] told them that he feared she would dye on child-bed. Whereupon one of them comforted him, saying that there was no cause to feare her death, and for her bignesse that was no wonder, in regard she had a church in her belly.

231.

A certaine man was mightily affected with a

woman whose name was Wall, which did use painting very much : his friends did diswade him from comming neere her, telling him they did wonder he was so besotted to set his affections upon a painted wall.

## 232.

One (whose husbands name was Beane) being delivered of two children at a burden, told the midwife she had been so troubled with wind all the time she was with child that she wondred at it. The midwife said it was no marvaile, in regard her belly so long had been full of beanes.

## 233.

One, whose name was Mild, being in a tavern tooke out a new coyn'd six pence, who, observing the company to take notice of the brightnesse of the peece, told them it was a mild sixpence.

## 234.

One asked what the reason was that some women were so light heel'd now adayes. It was answered, because they did wear corke-heel'd shooes.

## 235.

One, having a play book called the Wits<sup>1</sup> which

(1) *The Wits*, a Comedy, by Sir William Davenant, 1636, 4°.

he much valued, by chance lost it: but while he was chafing and swearing about the losse of his book, in comes one of his friends, who asking the cause of his distemper, it was answered that he had lost his wits.

236.

One stood to prove that a brewers horse was a tapster, because he did draw beere; another answered him it could not be, because, though a brewers horse (if he were overladen) would froth, yet he could not nicke.<sup>1</sup>

237.

One, reading of a Curranto, said he wondred that men did so affect to lye in paper and yet without sheets.

238.

One asked what herbe that was that cured all diseases. It was answered, Time.

239.

One, being about to write the superscription of a letter to his mistres, asked a Scholler what termes

(1) A *nicke* is the raised bottom of a beer-pot or beer-can. The deception practised on the consumer by the height of the *nick* led to the use of the verb *to nick* in the sense of *to cheat*.

were best to give her; who told him the Venus lasse of his affections was a good word. He, mistaking, writ to the Venice glasse of his affections, which was a truer title then he was aware of.

## 240.

An Upholster was chiding his Apprentice, because he was not nimble enough at his worke, and had not his nailes and hammar in readines, when he should use them, telling him that, when he was an Apprentice, he was taught to have his nailes at his fingers ends.

## 241.

One, whose name was Rapier, being a man of a grave calling, yet using to weare a white suite, was chid for not getting a black scabbard to his rapier.

## 242.

One asked what that yong man deserved, that did love alwayes to be in a playhouse. It was answered, a box.

## 243.

One being at a friends house in the night was perswaded to stay all night, but denied, saying he

would be gone, because it was moone light. His friend told him he thought he had not been so lunatique  to love to walke in the moone light.

244.

One wondred, why there was so many pickpockets about the streets notwithstanding a watch was at every corner. It was answered, that was all one, for a pickpocket would as gladly meet with a watch as any thing else.

245.

Certaine Gossips being a discoursing of the Company their husbands kept: troth, sayes one, my husband is no sooner out of doores but he has as many about him, as there is to see the great beast with two paire of horns.

246.

A Company of Country fellows disputing. of learning, and what a crooked, hard, and intricat thing it was to be a good Scholler: truly, sayes one, and so it is: for I have heard your best laten is in crooked lane.

247.

One questioned which were the greatest wonders

in the world. 'Twas answered, womens and Lawyers tongues, for that they did alwayes lye, yet never ley still.

248.

One demanded what creature was most like an Asse. He was answered, a Puritane, in that they had the longest eares.

249.

A Coblers wife speaking of the place she liv'd in, before she was married, her prentise mumbling said there was none but wh\*\*\*\* and Bauds lived there. What's that you say, Sirrah? quoth she. Marry, I say there are honester women then your selfe liv'd there.

250.

**On a Puritan.**

*Who is't, d'you thinke, this earth doth here inclose?  
I know not; why, 'tis a disputing nose.*

251.

A young lascivious Gallant, wanting money, could not with his credit sell any thing: yet, his Father being but lately dead, at length was checkt by some of his friends for his loose and extravagant life, and

withall told that he had base and beastly Associats, that did draw him to ill houses. He, taking this opportunity, answered : truly, friends, your counsell is very good, I will presently go sell my coach and horses.

252.

**On a Cobler.**

*If any aske why this same stone was made,  
(Know) for a Cobler, newly underlayd  
Here for his overboasting; pray condole  
Him, that translated many a weary sole.*

253.

A Steward being set on by a Theefe, who commanded him to deliver, he being a Receiver, the Steward replied : I hope you will spare me, I being a Receiver also. You shall be, said the Theefe, if you deliver not the sooner.

254.

One sitting at dinner, where great store of rude mirth was discoursed and laught at, a prattling youth clapt him on the shoulder, and asked him if he was making verse he was so mute. Who replied he was. Speake them, quoth he. No, replied

the other. Why you cannot speak them in better company. I suppose so, quoth the modest man, but two fooles at once will be too troublesome.

255.

A Scholler cal'd a tayler base fellow in a taverne, who swore he would have him to the court of  
• Honour. If you doe, replied the Scholler, looke you make your words good, for I would not willingly be the cause of putting it upon record.

256.

A Gentleman going along the street was entreated by a poore crible that had wooden legges to bestow his charity : to whom the Gentleman answered, if he would make a hansom legge, he should have a couple of farthings.

257.

A company of Gentlemen, comming into a Tavern, whose signe was the Moone, called for a quart of sacke ; the drawer told them they had none : whereat the gentlemen wondring, were told by the drawer, that the man in the Moone always drunke Claret.

258.

One, that was skil'd in writing short hand, promised a Lawier's Clarke to teach him his skill, who thanked him for his paines, but told him they could not live by making short hand of any thing.

259.

One said a civit cat was a dainty thing to keepe in a house, because her dung was sweet ; another said it was true, but yet it was more profitable to keepe a cooke, especially in a deare yeer, because he spitted rost.

260.

One asked, why hard wax was so much in request now adayes. It was answered, because the world did wax so hard.

261.

A woman, having married an old man whose name was Edward (whom she thought had been very rich, but not worth a penny), being asked what she had by her marriage, answered, an old Edward.

262.

A Gentleman, comming in the night to visit an

old man who had a hansom wench to his wife, and suspected to be a little too light, was entreated by the old man to walke into a roome. His wife having a candle in her hand, entreated the gentleman to follow her, who told her he would have her husband (because he was an old man) to follow the light.

263.

Two Gentlemen were in a deep dispute, whether the man in the Moone were a gentleman or a cittizen ; it was determined by a Scholler that, when she was at full there was a gentleman in her, but when she appeared like a horne, there was a cittizen in her.

264.

A justice of peace sending a Cheat to deserved punishment, the Cheater, bewailing his hard fortune, wished he could as easily learn to commit as the Justice could discover knavery. Why, that you may, said the Justice. Never, reply'd the Knave, without I be put in authority.

265.

A Gentleman in wants was advised by his friend to serve a noble man that so he might raise his

fortune. That was, said he, to refuse a lesser poverty for a greater ; for although I am poore, yet I have my selfe ; there I shall not.

266.

A french-man, scoffing at the fancies of the English, in admiring their Nation and neglecting their owne, was thus answered : we in England esteemed you, as you in France do our hownds, for pleasure.

267.

One scoffingly demanded of a Drawer with a great Crimson face full of high rubyes, when he was at the Barbers. The drawer answered, troth, Sir, I cannot tell well, but to my best remembrance 'twas much about the time your face was brased.

268.

A booke-binder disappointing a Scholler of his Books which he had to bind for him, the Scholler, being angry, cal'd him idle Knave ; the Binder not long after brought home his books, and having received his mony for them, desired to know of the Scholler, why he cal'd him Knave the other day. To deal plainly with thee, said the Scholler

because I would not flatter thee. Why, sir, doe you think so, said the Binder? Yes, faith, replied the Scholler. Then I waigh not your words much, quoth the Binder, since children and fooles speake what they thinke. I, but they are Knaves (said the Scholler), that speake against knowledge. Indeed Sir, I tooke you for one of them; and so went his way.

269.

A foolish mellancholly Gentleman, riding with his man on the high way, suddenly cryed out, his foot, his foot! His man started, and desired him to light, that he might see what 'twas that hurt him. Then pluck off this boot, said he, which being done the man told him, sir, here is nothing. Then, prethee, sayes the gentleman, pluck off the other, for sure one of them pained me.

270.

A pretty wench but lately come out of the Country, in her pouledavis and linsi-woolsy petticoats, living in the strand, was seene not long after in her silkes and sattins, and being by one of her country-women demanded how such might be purchased: faith, answer'd she, only for the taking up.

271.

A Citizen going out of towne with some of his

neighbors to hunt : pree-thee, sweetheart (sayes he to his wife), pray that I meet not a Diana, and so come home like to Actæon horn'd, or be torne to peeces with the dogs. His wife, thinking he had closely jeer'd her, and thinking to be revenged, said : truly, husband, whether you meet Diana or no, I'll take order you shall not want.

## 272.

Certaine Gallants being at a tavernne, where they spar'd no liquor, insomuch that all were well entred ; but one whose head was somewhat weaker, and therefore lighter, did nothing but spew, and calling for a rekoning, why, says one of his friends, cannot you tell, that have so often cast up, what you have drunke ?

## 273.

A Gentleman, meeting of a married Souldier newly come from the wars, demanded what charge he underwent. The Souldier replyed, a Captaines. Truly, answered the Gentleman, then you may help your wife to an Ancients place, for she can beare stoutly.

## 274.

A fellow going down Ludgate-Hill, his heeles by chance slipping from him, fell upon his breech.

One standing by told him that London-stones were stout and scornfull. It may be so, quoth he, yet I made them to kisse my breech, as stout as they were.

275.

A coward told his friend that one gave him a box on the eare, and he did not strike him again, but turn'd the other also to him; to which his friend answered: sure there was a great fight betwixt you, when blowes were given on both sides.

276.

One asked, why Prentices were so briefe with their clubs, when Gentlemen were falling out or quareling in the streets. One replied it was their opportunity to be revenged on them for meddling with their mistresses.

277.

A Country farmer, having a pound neere his house, whereat was a Dunghill, which at its full maturity he sold, on the next market-day, amongst other discourse, told his neighbors that he had made as good a market as ever he did in his life, for he had sold all his dunghill by the pound. One replied: troth, neighbor, you cannot chuse but be

rich ; I have one to sell ; pray, neighbor, tell me how you sold a pound, and how many hundred weight there was in it.

278.

One asked a Gentlewoman in which part of the house she did use to lye. It was answer'd, that she lay backwards, and did let out her fore-rooms.

279.

A company of Gentlemen [were] in a tavern, amongst the rest one whose name was Bramble ; who being very quarelsome, ere they parted, fell to words and so to blowes, and had beaten and scratch't one of the Gentlemen in the face that he bled ; who going home, one of his friends meeting him by the way asked the cause, how he came to bleed so. No great harme, replied he, onely a Bramble by chance scratch't me.

280.

One told his friend, if he would be pleased to go with him he would bring him to a place, where they should have wenches and lobsters by the belly.

281.

A shoe-maker sent his man unto a Gentleman, who had ought him money a long-time for bootes

and shoes that had formerly been made for him. The servant, comming to the Gentleman, told him his Master would intreate him to send that little money which was due to him as aforesaid, whereat the Gentleman (rather willing to cavell then pay) in a great rage answered : thou rogue ! what, doth thy Master thinke I am running away, that he sends after me for such a trifle as this is ? No, Sir, replied the servant, my master doth not thinke you are about to runne away ; but he is, and that makes him so earnest with you and others, that he might take his money along with him.

## 282.

A Gentleman invited to his table many guests, and provided for them divers dishes of meate ; amongst the rest, there being a legge of Mutton, one in the company took it, and fell so homely to worke with it, that he pared off all the flesh, and laying it in scraps in the dish, called to a servant to break the bone for him ; which one perceiving, that sat next the gentleman that invited them, jogged him, and shewed him how uncivilly the party had behaved himselfe ; whereupon the Gentleman, a little mov'd, yet unwilling to be too playne, began a tale to the whole table thus : I was, quoth he, not long since with a friend of mine that much

delighted in hunting, and after our sport comming home he would needs see his dogges fed, before he would eate anything himselfe, which I labored to diswade him from, in regard he was in a very faire new white Satten sute, which might amongst the dogs receive some hurt, but rather willed him for that time to suffer some of his servants to do it; all would not prevail, but into the yard, where the dogs were kept, he went, whither he was no sooner come, but one of the dogs, that was all mire and dirt, fell to ramping on him, and albeit the dogge spoyled his faire suite, yet he rebuked not the dogge, but on the contrary cherished him, which I, perceiving, said to my friend : Sir, what, doe you mean to suffer a scurvy dog to spoyle such a suite as that is? Alas, replied my friend, what would you have me doe to him? you see, as wel as I, he is but a puppy. Which was no sooner spoken, but by all the table applied to him, that had so spoyled the mutton.

283.

One asked whence the word *Interpreter* was derived. It was answered *quasi Inter-prater*, for one that prated betwixt two that spake severall languages.

284.

One asked why Chambermaids were more troubled with the greene-sicknesse then other women. It was answered, because they used to lye at their Masters beds-feet.

285.

One asked what beast in the world might be said to have the best understanding. It was answered, a Cuckold.

286.

A maid told her Mistresse she must entreat her to keepe more maids, because she was much over laid.

287.

Printers (saies one) are the most lawlesse men in a Kingdome, for they commit faults *cum. privilegio.*

**ffinis.**







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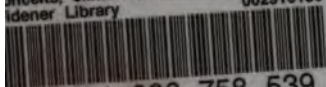
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